

CLAIMS:

- 29 1. A device for monitoring and identifying a vehicle in at least one parking zone, the device including
- 5 a housing shaped and dimensioned to be hand-held within which is housed:
- input means for feeding input identification particulars of a vehicle in a parking zone into the device;
- communication means for receiving reference identification particulars of vehicles communicated from a remote station to the device;
- 10 storage means for storing said reference identification particulars;
- timing means for timing the duration for which the vehicle is parked in the parking zone;
- processor means connected to the input means and to the storage means, the processor means including comparator means for comparing
- 15 the input identification particulars with the reference identification particulars, the processor means being operable to calculate a monetary amount due for parking for said duration in the parking zone so that the device functions as a parking meter;
- signal generation means for selectively generating a warning signal
- 20 in response to said comparison;
- display means for displaying the monetary amount due; and
- monetary receiving means for receiving the monetary amount due.

- 29 2. A device as claimed in Claim 1, in which the monetary receiving means includes card reading means for reading information
- 25 stored on a card and feeding it to the processor means for processing payment electronically.

31. ²⁹ A device as claimed in Claim 1, in which the processor means defines the timing means.

32. ²⁹ A device as claimed in Claim 1, in which the identification particulars are displayed on the display means.

5, 33. ²⁹ A device as claimed in Claim 1, which includes a printer for printing a hard-copy of selected data.

34. ²⁹ A device as claimed in Claim 1, in which the input means includes a keypad via which the identification particulars of the vehicle and the parking zone are manually entered.

10 35. ²⁹ A device as claimed in Claim 1, in which the input means includes a reader capable of reading in a wireless fashion a tag device in or on the vehicle, the tag device carrying the said identification particulars of the vehicle.

15 36. ²⁹ A device as claimed in Claim 1, in which the communication means is a wireless communication link.

37. ²⁹ A device as claimed in Claim 1, which includes enabling means for selectively enabling the device.

20 38. ³⁷ A device as claimed in Claim 1, in which the enabling means is defined by processor means and the input means in such a fashion so that upon entry of a correct PIN number the device is enabled.

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A device as claimed in Claim ~~1~~²⁹, in which the reference identification particulars are reference identification particulars of stolen vehicles.

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5 A device for monitoring and identifying a vehicle in at least one parking zone, the device including

a housing shaped and dimensioned to be hand-held within which is housed:

input means for feeding input identification particulars of a vehicle in a parking zone into the device;

10 communication means for sending the input identification particulars to a remote station and for receiving the result of a comparison performed at the remote station between the input identification and the reference identification particulars in order to identify the vehicle;

15 signal generation means for selectively generating a warning signal in response to said result;

timing means for timing the duration for which the vehicle is parked in the parking zone;

20 processor means for calculating a monetary amount due for parking for said duration in the parking zone;

display means for displaying the monetary amount due; and

monetary receiving means for receiving the monetary amount due.

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25 A device as claimed in Claim ~~12~~⁴⁰, in which the monetary receiving means includes card reading means for reading information stored on a card and feeding it to the processor means for processing payment electronically.

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A device as claimed in Claim ~~12~~, in which the processor means defines the timing means.

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A device as claimed in Claim ~~12~~, in which the identification particulars are displayed on the display means.

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A device as claimed in Claim ~~12~~, which includes a printer for printing a hard-copy of selected data.

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A device as claimed in Claim ~~12~~, in which the input means includes a keypad via which the identification particulars of the vehicle and the parking zone are manually entered.

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A device as claimed in Claim ~~12~~, in which the input means includes a reader capable of reading in a wireless fashion a tag device in or on the vehicle, the tag device carrying the said identification particulars of the vehicle.

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A device as claimed in Claim ~~12~~, in which the communication means is a wireless communication link.

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A device as claimed in Claim ~~12~~, which includes enabling means for selectively enabling the device.

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A device as claimed in Claim ~~20~~, in which the enabling means is defined by processor means and the input means in such a fashion so that upon entry of a correct PIN number the device is enabled.

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22. A device as claimed in Claim 12, in which the reference identification particulars are reference identification particulars of stolen vehicles.

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23. A system for monitoring and identifying vehicles in a plurality of parking zones, the system including

5 a remote station at which reference identification particulars of vehicles are stored; and

at least one device for identifying a vehicle parked in one of a plurality of parking zones with which the device is associated, the device

10 including a housing shaped and dimensioned to be hand-held within which is housed:

input means for feeding input identification particulars of a vehicle parked in a parking zone into the device;

communication means for sending the input identification

15 particulars to the remote station for comparison with the reference identification particulars and receiving the result of said comparison;

signal generation means for selectively generating a warning signal in response to said result;

timing means for timing the duration for which the vehicle is

20 parked in the parking zone;

processor means for calculating a monetary amount due for parking for said duration in the parking zone;

display means for displaying the monetary amount due; and

monetary receiving means for receiving the monetary amount due.

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24. A system as claimed in Claim 23, in which the communication means is a wireless communication means.

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A system as claimed in Claim ~~23~~⁵¹, in which the monetary receiving means includes card reading means for reading information stored on a card and feeding it to the processor means for processing payment electronically.

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5 A system as claimed in Claim ~~23~~⁵¹, in which the input means includes a reader capable of reading a tag device hidden in or on the vehicle in a wireless fashion, the tag device carrying the said identification particulars of the vehicle.

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10 A system as claimed in Claim ~~23~~⁵¹, which includes a control centre and a plurality of remote stations at remote locations associated with parking zones, each remote station being in communication with the control centre via a telecommunication network to receive reference identification particulars and each device being in wireless communication with an associated remote station.

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15 A system as claimed in Claim ~~27~~⁵⁵, in which the telecommunication network is a cellular telephone network.

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A system as claimed in Claim ~~28~~⁵⁶, in which the reference identification particulars are downloaded by means of SMS messaging.

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20 A system as claimed in Claim ~~25~~⁵³, in which the telecommunication network includes the Internet.

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A system as claimed in Claim 23, in which the remote station includes alternate communication means for communicating with other databases.

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5 A system for monitoring and identifying vehicles in a plurality of parking zones, the system including
a remote station at which reference identification particulars of vehicles are stored;

10 at least one device for identifying a vehicle parked in one of a plurality of parking zones with which the device is associated, the device including a housing shaped and dimensioned to be hand-held within which is housed:

input means for feeding input identification particulars of a vehicle in a parking zone into the device;

15 communication means for receiving the reference identification particulars from the remote station;

storage means for storing said reference identification particulars;

timing means for timing the duration for which the vehicle is parked in the parking zone;

20 processor means connected to the input means and to the storage means, the processor means including comparator means for comparing the input identification particulars with the reference identification particulars, the processor means being operable to calculate a monetary amount due for parking for said duration in the parking zone so that the device functions as a parking meter;

25 signal generation means for selectively generating a warning signal in response to said comparison;

display means for displaying the monetary amount due; and

monetary receiving means for receiving the monetary amount due.

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~~33.~~ A system as claimed in Claim ⁶⁰~~32~~, in which the communication means is a wireless communication means.

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~~34.~~ A system as claimed in Claim ⁶⁰~~32~~, in which the monetary receiving means includes card reading means for reading information stored on a card and feeding it to the processor means for processing payment electronically.

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~~35.~~ A system as claimed in Claim ⁶⁰~~32~~, in which the input means includes a reader capable of reading a tag device hidden in or on the vehicle in a wireless fashion, the tag device carrying the said identification particulars of the vehicle.

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~~36.~~ A system as claimed in Claim ⁶⁰~~32~~, which includes a control centre and a plurality of remote stations at remote locations associated with parking zones, each remote station being in communication with the control centre via a telecommunication network to receive reference identification particulars and each device being in wireless communication with an associated remote station.

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~~37.~~ A system as claimed in Claim ⁶⁴~~36~~, in which the telecommunication network is a cellular telephone network.

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~~38.~~ A system as claimed in Claim ⁶⁵~~37~~, in which the reference identification particulars are downloaded by means of SMS messaging.

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~~39.~~ A system as claimed in Claim ⁶²~~34~~, in which the telecommunication network includes the Internet.

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~~40.~~ A system as claimed in Claim ⁶⁰~~32~~, in which the remote station includes alternate communication means for communicating with other databases.

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~~41.~~ A method of monitoring and identifying a vehicle in a parking zone, the method including

feeding identification particulars of a vehicle in a parking zone into a hand-held device;

10 transmitting the identification particulars to a remote station;

comparing said identification particulars of the vehicle in the parking zone with reference identification particulars at the remote station;

15 selectively generating a warning signal in response to the comparison;

timing the duration for which the vehicle is parked in the parking zone;

calculating a monetary amount due for the said duration; and receiving said monetary amount due.

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20 ~~42.~~ A method as claimed in Claim ⁶⁹~~41~~, in which the reference identification particulars are the identification particulars of stolen vehicles.

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~~43.~~ A method as claimed in Claim ⁶⁹~~41~~, in which a database for storing reference identification particulars of vehicles is provided in the

Year	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
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